



November 29, 2021

### 60 DAY NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE

for violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 Sent in compliance with California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d), et seq.

### VIA CERTIFIED FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Carston Noble, CEO (or Current CEO) Henkel AG & Company 5800 Bristol Parkway Culver City, CA 90230

The Corporation Trust Company as Registered Agent for Henkel AG KGaA & Co. Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801

The Dial Corporation d/b/a Henkel North American Consumer Goods 5800 Bristol Parkway Culver City, CA 90230

### VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

State of California Dept. of Justice, Office of Attorney General of California filing link: oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice

Current CEO or President Thriving Brands LLC 8170 Corporate Park Dr., Suite 143 Cincinnati, OH 45242

The Corporation Trust Company as Registered Agent for Thriving Brands LLC Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801

### VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

District Attorneys of California Counties and City Attorneys, as in the Certificate of Service

#### VIA E-MAIL

District Attorneys of California Counties and City Attorneys, as in the Certificate of Service.

To alleged violators and public enforcement agencies:

I represent Mosanthony Wilson (the "Noticing Party") in this matter and write on his behalf pursuant to California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), which is codified at California Health and Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*, to notify you that Henkel AG & Co. KGaA ("Henkel AG"), The Dial Corporation d/b/a Henkel North American Consumer Goods ("Henkel USA"), and Thriving Brands LLC ("Thriving Brands") (collectively "Violators" or "Noticed Parties"), violated Proposition 65 by selling the following aerosol deodorant/antiperspirants ("Specified Products"):

- Right Guard Sport, Fresh (scent), Up to 48 HR Odor Protection
- Right Guard Sport, Powder Dry (scent), Up to 48 HR Protection

without first providing a Proposition 65 compliant warning. Mr. Wilson is a California citizen who purchased Right Guard Sport Fresh Up to 48 HR Odor Protection aerosol antiperspirants in the State of California.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

For general information, please see "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" prepared by the California EPA and attached to this notice as Appendix A. (Appendix not included in notice served on public enforcement agencies).

### PURPOSE OF NOTICE

Proposition 65 requires the Noticing Party to provide a 60-day notice of intent to sue alleged violators of Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6. With this notice of violation and intent to sue ("Notice"), the Noticing Party gives written notice of the alleged violation, bringing this action in the public interest as defined under the Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d), seeking to prosecute the alleged continuing noncompliance and to warn consumers about their exposure to the violative chemical(s), or reduce and/or eliminate consumer exposures from each of the Specified Products listed in the table below, which are manufactured, disturbed, and/or sold by the Noticed Parties.

Mr. Wilson intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

# **DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION**

This Notice covers the violations of Proposition 65 that are currently known to the Noticing Party from information now available as specifically related to the violating products listed below and manufactured, distributed or/and sold by and through the Noticed Parties. Noticing Party is continuing its investigation that may reveal further violations.

The Specified Products subject to this Notice, the chemical identified as exceeding allowable levels, and the Noticed Parties responsible for sales of the Specified Products are as follows:

Specified Products	Violative Chemical	Noticed Parties
<ol> <li>Right Guard Sport, Fresh (scent), Up to 48 HR Odor Protection Aerosol Antiperspirant</li> <li>Right Guard Sport, Powder Dry (scent), Up to 48 HR Odor Protection Aerosol Antiperspirant</li> </ol>	Benzene	<ol> <li>Henkel AG &amp; Co. KGaA ("Henkel AG"),</li> <li>The Dial Corporation d/b/a Henkel North American Consumer Goods ("Henkel USA"),</li> <li>Thriving Brands LLC ("Thriving Brands")</li> </ol>

The primary routes of exposure have been through dermal contact and inhalation.

Noticed Parties have manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold the Specified Products which, according to independent lab testing, have exposed and continue to expose consumers within the State of California to Benzene.

Pursuant to Proposition 65, Benzene is listed as a chemical known to the State of California to cause developmental toxicity, reproductive toxicity, and cancer. Accordingly, Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 requires that a "clear and reasonable" warning be provided prior to exposure to Benzene. The Noticed Parties are in violation of Proposition 65 because they failed to warn purchasers and consumers that the Specified Products expose users to Benzene. The Noticed Parties are knowingly and intentionally exposing consumers to Benzene without first providing a "clear and reasonable" warning.

The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product's label and also at the point of sale for internet purchases. *See* Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 25602, subd. (a)(3), and subd. (b). The Noticed Parties have not provided any Proposition 65 warnings as required by law or any other appropriate warnings that persons handling, applying and/or otherwise using the Specified Products are being exposed to Benzene.

The violations commenced when the Specified Products were first offered for sale in California, have continued every day since, and will continue every day henceforth until Benzene is removed from each of the Specified Products, reduced to allowable levels, or until a "clear and reasonable" warning is provided to consumers by the Noticed Parties, as applicable, in accordance with the law.

Mr. Wilson intends to file a lawsuit after 60 days based on the facts set forth in this Notice. Meanwhile we encourage a prompt resolution of this matter within the said period of 60 days where the Noticed Parties agree to (1) eliminate or reduce Benzene to an allowable level in the Specified Products or, as an alternative, (2) provide a Proposition 65-compliant warning on the label of the Specified Products and at the point of sale, and (3) pay applicable civil penalties and costs of bringing this action.

Prompt action by the Noticed Parties will prevent further consumer exposures to a dangerous chemical without warning, therefore rectifying these alleged ongoing violations of the California law and affording the Noticed Parties the opportunity to avoid increasing costs associated with incompliance. *Please direct all communications regarding this notice to my attention via email at astraus@milberg.com*.

Dated: November 29, 2021

Alex R. Straus

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Pursuant to Title 27, C.C.R. § 25903(b), copies of the following documents are attached hereto for reference:

- 1. The "Certificate of Merit" is attached to each copy of this Notice pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100.
- 2. Appendix A: "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" is attached to each Notice sent to the Noticed Parties but omitted from Notices sent to public enforcers.
- 3. The "Confidential Facts supporting Certificate of Merit" only attaches to the Attorney Generals copy of this Notice pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100.

# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

*To the Notice of Violation* 

# I, Alex R. Straus, attorney at law, hereby declare:

This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the notice have violated Health and Safety Code §25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

I am the attorney for the Noticing Party.

I have reviewed the facts of this case and have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience and expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, and/or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the attached Notice of Violation dated November 29, 2021 (the "Notice").

I have reviewed the laboratory testing results for the chemical subject to the Notice and rely on these results. The testing was conducted by a reputable accredited testing laboratory and by experienced scientists with doctoral and other degrees in relevant sciences. The facts, studies and other data derived through this investigation overwhelmingly demonstrate that the alleged violators have exposed persons to the listed chemical that is the subject of the Notice and is known to the State of California to cause reproductive and/or developmental harm, and/or cancer.

Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established, and the information did not prove that the alleged Violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including information identified in Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(h)(2) (i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons).

November 29, 2021

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My business address is 280 S. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

# 1. Notice to Alleged Violators

On November 29, 2021, between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm PST, I served:

- Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.;
- Certificate of Merit
- Appendix "A" "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary"

on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the parties below, and causing it to be deposited at a United States Postal Service Office for delivery by Certified First-Class Mail:

Carston Noble, CEO (or Current CEO) Henkel AG & Company 5800 Bristol Parkway Culver City, CA 90230

The Corporation Trust Company c/o Henkel AG KGaA & Co. Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801

The Dial Corporation d/b/a Henkel North American Consumer Goods 5800 Bristol Parkway Culver City, CA 90230 Current CEO or President Thriving Brands LLC 8170 Corporate Park Dr., Suite 143 Cincinnati, OH 45242

The Corporation Trust Company c/o Thriving Brands LLC Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801

### 2. Notice to Attorney General

On November 30, 2021, between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm PST, I served:

- Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seg.,
- Certificate of Merit
- Confidential Facts in Support of the Certificate of Merit pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3102

on the following parties by filing electronically a true and correct copy thereof as permitted through the website of the California Office of the Attorney General via link at oag.ca.gov/prop65:

# State of California Department of Justice; Office of the Attorney General of California.

### 3. Notice to Public Enforcers via First Class Mail

On November 29, 2021, between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm PST, I served:

- Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq., and
- Certificate of Merit

on the parties below by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the District Attorney and City Attorney offices listed below, and causing each envelope to be deposited at a United States Postal Service mailbox for delivery by First Class Mail:

Dist. Attorney Alpine County	Dist. Attorney Lake County	Dist. Attorney Sierra County		
PO Box 248	255 North Forbes St.	PO Box 457		
Markleeville, CA 96120	Lakeport, CA 95453	Downieville, CA 95936		
Dist Attr. Amadan Country	Dist Atts: Los Appeles Co	District Attornous?		
Dist. Atty. Amador County	Dist. Atty. Los Angeles Co.	District Attorney's Office		
708 Court Street, Suite 202	Hall of Justice 211	Siskiyou County Courthouse		
Jackson, CA 95642	West Temple St. Ste 1200	311 Fourth Street, Room 204		
District Attorney Butte Co.	Los Angeles, CA 90012	Yreka, CA 96097		
25 County Center Dr, Ste 245	District Attorney	District Attorney		
Oroville, CA 95965	Madera County	Solano County		
	209 West Yosemite Avenue	675 Texas Street, Ste 4500		
District Attorney	Madera, CA 93637	Fairfield, CA 94533		
Colusa County	Wadera, CA 93037	Tairrield, CA 94333		
310 6th Street	District Attorney	District Attorney		
Colusa, CA 95932	Marin County	Stanislaus County		
D A	3501 Civic Center	832 12 <sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 300		
District Attorney	Drive, Room 130	Modesto, CA 95354		
Del Norte County	San Rafael, CA 94903			
450 H Street, Suite 171	,	District Attorney		
Crescent City, CA 95531	District Attorney	Sutter County		
District Attorney	Mendocino County	446 Second Street		
EL Dorado County	PO Box 1000	Yuba City, CA 95991		
778 Pacific Street	Ukiah, CA 95482	District Attornay		
	District Attack Made Country	District Attorney		
Placerville, CA 95667	District Atty Modoc County	Tehama County		
District Attorney	204 S Court St, Room 202	PO Box 519		
Fresno County	Alturas, CA 96101-4020	Red Bluff, CA 96080		
2220 Tulare St., Ste 1000	District Attorney Orange	District Attorney		
Fresno, CA 93721	County	Trinity County		
110010, 011 73721	300 N Flower St.	Post Office Box 310		
District Attorney	Santa Ana, CA 92703	Weaverville, CA 96093		
<u> </u>	Sama Ana, CA 32103	Weaverville, CA 30033		
Glenn County	District Atty San Benito Co.	District Attorney		
Post Office Box 430	1			

Willows, CA 95988	419 4th Street	Tuolumne County
District Attorney	Hollister, CA 95023	423 N Washington St.
-	District Attorney	Sonora, CA 95370
Humboldt County	District Attorney	
825 5th Street 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	San Bernardino County	District Attorney
Eureka, CA 95501	316 No. Mountain View Ave.	Yuba County
District Attorney	San Bernardino, CA 92415	215 Fifth Street,
District Attorney		Suite 152
Imperial County	District Attorney	Marysville, CA 95901
940 West Main St., Ste102	San Mateo County	Warysville, CA 93901
El Centro, CA 92243	400 County Ctr., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Los Angeles City Atty's Office
D. C. AM K. C.	Redwood City, CA 94063	City Hall
District Atty Kern County		East 200 N. Main St., Ste 800
1215 Truxtun Avenue	District Atty Shasta County	Los Angeles, CA 90012
Bakersfield, CA 93301	1355 West Street	Los ringeles, err 70012
District Atts Vince Country	Redding, CA 96001	San Jose City Atty's Office
District Atty Kings County		200 E Santa Clara St,
1400 West Lacey Blvd.	District Atty Mono County	16 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Hanford, CA 93230	Post Office Box 617	San Jose, CA 95113
	Bridgeport, CA 93517	San Jose, CA Jorra

# 4. Notice to Public Enforces via Electronic Service

On November 30, 2021, between 10:00 am and 11:00 am PST, I served:

- Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq., and
- Certificate of Merit

on the following parties below, all of which have request electronic service only via the following emails addresses:

Alameda County District Attorney	Calaveras County District Attorney
CEPDProp65@acgov.org	Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us
Contra Costa County District Attorney sgrassini@contracostada.org	Inyo County District Attorney inyoda@inyocounty.us
Lassen County District Attorney mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us	Mariposa County District Attorney mcda@mariposacounty.org
Merced County District Attorney	Monterey County District Attorney
Prop65@countyofmerced.com	Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us
Napa County District Attorney	Nevada County District Attorney
CEPD@countyofnapa.org	DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us
Placer County District Attorney	Plumas County District Attorney
Prop65@placer.ca.gov	davidhollister@countyofplumas.com
Riverside County District Attorney Prop65@rivcoda.org	Sacramento County District Attorney Prop65@sacda.org
San Diego City Attorney	San Diego County District Attorney
CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov	SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org

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San Francisco County District Attorney	San Francisco City Attorney Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org
alcthca.sargent@sfgov.org	
San Joaquin County District Attorney DA	San Luis Obispo County District Attorney
DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcd a.org	edobroth@co.slo.ca.us
Santa Barbara County District Attorney DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us	Santa Clara County District Attorney EPU@da.sccgov.org
Santa Cruz County District Attorney Prop65DA@santacruzeounty.us	Sonoma County District Attorney jbarnes@sonoma-county.org
Tulare County District Attorney Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us	Ventura County District Attorney daspecialops@ventura.org
Yolo County District Attorney cfepd@yolocounty.org	

Executed on November 30, 2021

Alex R. Straus

280 S. Beverly Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90212